

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 AGR-05 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07

IO-13 LAB-04 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

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R 130602Z MAY 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0301

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AMEMBASSY NAIORBI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, UNCATD, CH, US

SUBJECT: THE PRC AT UNCTAD--RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH

1. SO FAR, THE ONLY CHINESE PRESS MENTION OF THE SECRETARY'S IMPORTANT MAY 6 ADDRESS TO THE UNCTAD IV CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI CAME IN A NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY ARTICLE WHICH MAINTAINED THE SPEECH "CAUSED RESENTMENT AMONG DELEGATES OF MANY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES." A MORE REVEALING RESPONSE WAS CONTAINED IN PRC DELEGATION HEAD AND FOREIGN TRADE VICE MINISTER CHOU HUA-MIN'S MAY 11 SPEECH. DIRECTLY CRITICAL OF THE SECRETARY'S MAJOR PROPOSAL FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES BANK (IRB), HE LABELED IT AS AN ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN THE OLD ECONOMIC ORDER. FURTHER, CHOU EXPLICITLY OPPOSED THE GENERAL US POLICY OF DEALING WITH COMMODITY AGREEMENTS INDIVIDUALLY, RATHER THAN IN THE SO-CALLED "INTEGRATED PROGRAM". OVERALL, HE CONTRASTED THE US STRESS ON INTERDEPENDENCE WITH THE CHINESE POLICY OF SELF-RELIANCE, ADDING FOR EXTRA MEASURES THAT US POLICIES WERE "TO PUT

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IT BLUNTLY," ONLY INTENDED "TO MAINTAIN CONTROL, PLUNDER

AND EXPLOITATION OVER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES".

2. HIS OTHER COMMENTS WERE LACKING IN SPECIFICS BUT GENERALLY REFLECTED PRC ATTITUDES IN OPPOSITIONS TO ESTABLISHED US POLICIES. IN REMARKS WITH POSSIBLE HARMFUL IMPLICATIONS FOR US BUSINESS INTERESTS, CHOU SAID THAT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SHOULD NOT ONLY BE CHEAP, BUT THAT THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT SYSTEM SHOULD BE REFORMED, AND A LEGALLY BINDING INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED. HIS REFERENCES TO THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFI) AND LDC DEBT PROBLEMS, THOUGH AT VARIANCE WITH US POLICIES, WERE SURPRISINGLY MILD COMPARED TO PREVIOUS PRC PRONOUNCEMENTS.

3. IN OFFERING THEIR OWN PRESCRIPTION FOR LDC ECONOMIC ILLS, THE CHINESE INDIRECTLY ACKNOWLEDGED PREVIOUS CRITICISMS OF THEIR PAST SWEEPING STATEMENTS. THE PRC APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE STILL STRESSED "INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE" BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME ADDED THE GRATUITOUS QUALIFICATION THAT DUE CONSIDERATION MUST BE

GIVEN TO SPECIFIC FEATURES AND CONDITIONS OF EACH LDC. FURTHER, IN DISCUSSING IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS POLICY, THE CHINESE SOMEWHAT UNCHARACTERISTICALLY REFERRED TO "GRADUALLY" GETTING RID OF IMPERIALIST CONTROL. BY CONTRAST WITH ITS RHETORIC, ACTUAL CHINESE AID TO LDCS IS OFTEN VERY PRACTICAL IN MEETING SOME REAL NEEDS OF THE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: THE CHINESE POSITIONS, INCLUDING OPPOSITION TO THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS, WERE NOT UNEXPECTED. THOUGH THE ATTACKS ON THE US SEEM STRONGER THAN SIMILAR SPEECHES OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE CHINESE BASICALLY REPEATED THE SAME TIRED GENERAL FORMULATIONS. AS USUAL, THEY RESERVED MOST OF THEIR FIRE FOR THE SOVIET UNION. IRONICALLY, CHINA'S DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE TWO WICKED SUPERPOWERS EXTORT SUPERPROFITS BY TREATING THE LDCS AS SOURCES OF RAW MATERIALS AND AS MARKETS FOR MANUFACTURED GOODS COULD FIT EQUALLY WELL AS DESCRIPTION OF CHINA'S OWN TRADE WITH THE THIRD WORLD. THOUGH CHINA WOULD LIKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO BE A SELF-STYLED LEADER OF THE THIRD WORLD, IT HAS HAD FEW CREATIVE IDEAS IN THIS AREA AND SEEMS UNABLE TO MAKE MANY USEFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE IMPORTANT WORK OF UNCTAD IV.
CROSS

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